



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Wappapello Lake in southern Missouri tops overflow spillway

St. Louis, Mo., May 2, 2011 – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis reported that Wappapello Lake's pool elevation overtopped a temporary rock berm that was constructed across the lake's overflow spillway. The berm was constructed to an elevation of 397.3 feet but recent rain events pushed the lake's waters beyond that level. Wappapello Lake is on the St. Francis River about 150 miles south of St. Louis.

Flows into Wappapello Lake were at 26,000 cubic feet per second this morning and pool elevation at noon was at 398.88 feet and rising slowly with an outflow of slightly more than 21,000 cfs. The lake is currently forecasted to crest at 399.2 feet on Wednesday, May 4. This would surpass the record set in April 1945 when it reached an elevation of 399.09 feet. The current forecasted crest is based on rain that's already fallen and is in the system. Projected crests are subject to updates based on future rainfall.

Downstream flooding caused by these releases could be compounded by localized flooding. Wappapello Dam is functioning as designed and there are no problems with the dam. Those within the St. Francis River Watershed are asked to be aware and vigilant and to adhere to the guidance and direction of emergency officials.

St. Louis District officials are working closely with their counterparts in the Memphis District to evaluate the impacts to the flood control system.

More information on St. Louis District's Spring 2011 flood fight efforts is available on the Team Saint Louis websites:

www.mvs.usace.army.mil

<http://bit.ly/floodfight>

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